

REMARKS

The Examiner's recognition of Applicants' invention by the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 2-9 and 18-20 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1 and 16 are amended to more particularly point out that the rib has a cross-section that includes a pair of arcuate sides, a feature originally recited in claims 2 and 18, now cancelled.

The dependencies of claims 3, 5, 19 and 20 are amended in view of the cancellation of intervening claims. Claim 10 is made dependent upon claim 9.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 112

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC § 112 as indefinite as lacking antecedent basis for "the first convex side." Claim 10 is made dependent upon claim 9 and so refers to the first convex side as called for in that claim. Therefore, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,569,009, issued to Nishikawa et al. in 2003. Claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Nishikawa et al in view of United States Patent No. 6,074,294, issued to Stevenson in 2000.

Nishikawa et al. describes an air conditioning case 1a that includes a sealing projection 21 to engage a film 10, see Fig. 8. The sealing projection provides a planar surface bordered by right and obtuse angles. In contrast, in Applicants' valve comprises the rib that engages the film member and has arcuate sides. As acknowledged in the Office Action, Nishikawa et al. does not show this feature. Moreover, Stevenson, cited to show a idle roller, provides contact with a planar frame surface, and does not show a rib, or more particularly a rib having arcuate sides. Thus, Nishikawa et al., eve if combined with Stevenson, does not point the practitioner to Applicants' invention.

Claim 1 is directed to Applicants' valve that comprises a rib projecting from an interior surface of a frame for sealing engagement with a fabric member. The rib has a cross-section that includes a pair of arcuate sides extending outwardly from said interior surface. Nishikawa et al. does not show a rib having arcuate sides. Nor does Stevenson show this feature. Thus, the references do not teach or even suggest Applicants' invention in claim 1.

Claims 11 and 12 are dependent upon claim 1 and so not shown by the references at least for the reasons set forth with regard to that claim.

Claim 16 is directed to Applicants' valve and calls for a rib having a cross-section that includes a pair of arcuate sides, similar to claim 1. For the reasons above, the references do not show Applicants' invention in claim 16 or dependent claim 17.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims based upon Nishikawa et al. and Stevenson be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed.

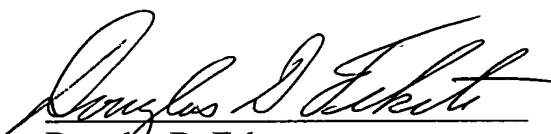
Conclusion

Claims 3-9 and 19-20 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, it is believed that the base claims are now allowable. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection be withdrawn, and that all claims be allowed.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Fekete", written over a horizontal line.

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